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FBI and Homeland Security ignored ‘massive amount’ of intelligence before Jan. 6

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security downplayed or ignored “a massive amount of intelligence information” ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S Capitol, according to the chairman of a Senate panel that on Tuesday released a new report on the intelligence failures ahead of the insurrection.

The report details how the agencies failed to recognize and warn of the potential for violence as some of then-President Donald Trump’s supporters openly planned the siege in messages and forums online.

Among the multitude of intelligence that was overlooked was a December 2020 tip to the FBI that members of the far-right extremist group Proud Boys planned to be in Washington, D.C., for the certification of Joe Biden’s victory and their “plan is to literally kill people,” the report said.

Continued on Page 2



Rioters supporting President Donald Trump try to break through a police barrier at the Capitol in Washington, on Jan. 6, 2021. Rioters supporting President Donald Trump try to break through a police barrier at the Capitol in Washington, on Jan. 6, 2021.

Associated Press



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FBI and Homeland Security ignored 'massive amount' of intelligence before Jan. 6

Continued from Front

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee said the agencies were also aware of many social media posts that foreshadowed violence, some calling on Trump's supporters to "come armed" and storm the Capitol, kill lawmakers or "burn the place to the ground."

Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, the Democratic chairman of the Homeland panel, said the breakdown was "largely a failure of imagination to see threats that the Capitol could be breached as credible," echoing the findings of the Sept. 11 commission about intelligence failures ahead of the 2001 terrorist attacks. The report by the panel's majority staff says the intelligence community has not entirely recalibrated to focus on the threats of domestic, rather than international, terrorism. And government intelligence leaders failed to sound the alarm "in part because they could not conceive that the U.S. Capitol Building would be overrun by rioters."

Still, Peters said, the reasons for dismissing what he called a "massive" amount of intelligence "defies an easy explanation."

While several other reports have examined the intelligence failures around Jan. 6 — including a bipartisan 2021 Senate report, the House Jan. 6 committee last year and several separate internal assessments by the Capitol Police and other government agencies — the latest investigation is the first congressional report to focus solely on the actions of the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

In the wake of the attack, Peters said the committee interviewed officials at both agencies and found what was "pretty constant finger pointing" at each other.

"Everybody should be accountable because everybody failed," Peters said.

Using emails and interviews



Rioters at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

collected by the Senate committee and others, including from the House Jan. 6 panel, the report lays out in detail the intelligence the agencies received in the weeks ahead of the attack.

There was not a failure to obtain evidence, the report says, but the agencies "failed to fully and accurately assess the severity of the threat identified by that intelligence, and formally disseminate guidance to their law enforcement partners."

As Trump, a Republican, falsely claimed he had won the 2020 election and tried to overturn his election defeat, telling his supporters to "fight like hell" in a speech in front of the White House that day, thousands of them marched to the Capitol. More than 2,000 rioters overran law enforcement, assaulted police officers, and caused more than \$2.7 billion in damage to the Capitol, according to a U.S. Government Accountability Office report earlier this year.

Breaking through windows and doors, the rioters sent lawmakers running for their lives and temporarily interrupted the certification of the election victory by Biden, a Democrat.

Even as the attack was happening, the new report found, the FBI and Homeland Security downplayed the threat. As the Capitol Police struggled to clear the building, Homeland

Security "was still struggling to assess the credibility of threats against the Capitol and to report out its intelligence."

And at a 10 a.m. briefing as protesters gathered at Trump's speech and near the Capitol were "wearing ballistic helmets, body armor, carrying radio equipment and military grade backpacks," the FBI briefed that there were "no credible threats at this time."

The lack of sufficient warnings meant that law enforcement were not adequately prepared and there was not a hardened perimeter established around the Capitol, as there is during events like the annual State of the Union address.

The report contains dozens of tips about violence on Jan. 6 that the agencies received and dismissed either due to lack of coordination, bureaucratic delays or trepidation on the part of those who were collecting it. The FBI, for example, was unexpectedly hindered in its attempt to find social media posts planning for Jan. 6 protests when the contract for its third-party social media monitoring tool expired. At Homeland Security, analysts were hesitant to report open-source intelligence after criticism in 2020 for collecting intelligence on American citizens during racial justice demonstrations.

One tip received by the FBI ahead of the Jan. 6 attack

was from a former Justice Department official who sent screenshots of online posts from members of the Oath Keepers extremist group: "There is only one way in. It is not signs. It's not rallies. It's f----- bullets!"

The social media company Parler, a favored platform for Trump's supporters, directly sent the FBI several posts it found alarming, adding that there was "more where this came from" and that they were concerned about what would happen on Jan. 6.

"(T)his is not a rally and it's no longer a protest," read one of the Parler posts sent to the FBI, according to the report. "This is a final stand where we are drawing the red line at Capitol Hill. (...) don't be surprised if we take the #capitol (sic) building."

But even as it received the warnings, the Senate panel found, the agency said over and over again that there were no credible threats.

"Our nation is still reckoning with the fallout from January 6th, but what is clear is the need for a reevaluation of the federal government's domestic intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination processes," the new report says. In a statement, Homeland Security spokesperson Angelo Fernandez said that the department has made many of those changes two and a half years later. The department "has

strengthened intelligence analysis, information sharing, and operational preparedness to help prevent acts of violence and keep our communities safe."

The FBI said in a separate response that since the attack it has increased focus on "swift information sharing" and centralized the flow of information to ensure more timely notification to other entities. "The FBI is determined to aggressively fight the danger posed by all domestic violent extremists, regardless of their motivations," the statement said.

FBI Director Christopher Wray has defended the FBI's handling of intelligence in the run-up to Jan. 6, including a report from its Norfolk field office on Jan. 5 that cited online posts foreshadowing the possibility of a "war" in Washington the following day. The Senate report noted that the memo "did not note the multitude of other warnings" the agency had received.

The faultfinding with the FBI and Homeland Security Department echoes the blistering criticism directed at U.S. Capitol Police in a bipartisan report issued by the Senate Homeland and Rules committees two years ago. That report found that the police intelligence unit knew about social media posts calling for violence, as well, but did not inform top leadership what they had found.

Peters says he asked for the probe of the intelligence agencies after other reports, such as the House panel's investigation last year, focused on other aspects of the attack. The Jan. 6 panel was more focused on Trump's actions, and concluded in its report that the former president criminally engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 presidential election and failed to act to stop his supporters from attacking the Capitol.

"It's important for us to realize these failures to make sure it doesn't happen again," Peters said. □

Associated Press

Canadian wildfires are causing unhealthy air quality again in Chicago and other parts of the U.S.

By MELINA WALLING,
MELISSA WINDER and
TRISHA AHMED
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Drifting smoke from the ongoing wildfires across Canada is creating curtains of haze and raising air quality concerns throughout the Great Lakes region, and in parts of the central and eastern United States.

In Minnesota, a record 23rd air quality alert was issued Tuesday through late Wednesday night across much of the state, as smoky skies obscure the skylines of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

On Tuesday, Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy issued an air quality alert for the entire state. Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources also issued an air quality advisory for the state.

In Chicago — where the air quality has been categorized "unhealthy" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — officials are urging young people, older adults and residents with health issues to spend more time indoors.

"Just driving into the zoo ... you could just see around the buildings, kind of just haze," said Shelly Woinowski, who was visiting the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. Some day care centers in the Chicago area have told parents that their children will remain indoors Tuesday due to the poor air quality, while one youth sports club says it adjusted its activities to add more time indoors.

"We recommend children, teens, seniors, people with heart or lung disease, and individuals who are pregnant avoid strenuous activities and limit their time outdoors," Mayor Brandon Johnson said in a release. "As these unsafe conditions continue, the city will continue to provide updates and take swift action to ensure that vulnerable individuals have the resources they need to protect themselves and their families."

The Canadian Interagency



The Marriott Marquis, left, and the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, center, stand above The McCormick Place Convention Center in a veil of haze from Canadian wildfires obscuring the majestic Chicago skyline, as seen from the city's Bronzeville neighborhood Tuesday, June 27, 2023, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Forest Fire Centre reported Monday that 76,129 square kilometers (29,393 square miles) of land including forests has burned across Canada since Jan. 1. That exceeds the previous record set in 1989 of 75,596 square kilometers (29,187 square miles), according to the National Forestry Database.

Nationally, there are currently 490 fires burning, with 255 of them considered to be out of control.

Even recent rainfall in Quebec likely won't be enough to extinguish the wildfires ravaging the northern part of that province, but the wet weather could give firefighters a chance to get ahead of the flames, officials said Tuesday.

Nearly a quarter of the fires burning in Canada are in Quebec. Environment Canada meteorologist Simon Legault said he expects rain to stop falling by Wednesday morning in the regions most affected by forest fires.

Earlier this month, massive fires burning stretches of Canadian forests blanketed the northeastern United States and the Great Lakes region, turning the air yellowish gray, and prompting warnings for people to stay inside and keep windows closed.

The small particles in wildfire smoke can irritate the eyes, nose and throat, and can affect the heart and lungs, making it harder to breathe.

Health officials say it's important to limit outdoor activities as much as possible

to avoid breathing in these particles.

Fires in northern Quebec and low pressure over the eastern Great Lakes are sending smoke through northern Michigan, and across southern Wisconsin and Chicago, said Bryan Jackson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Jackson added that a north wind would push the smoke further south, moving into Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky later Tuesday and overnight.

Southwestern Michigan has a high air quality index, over 200 on a 500-point index, he noted. That's considered unhealthy for ev-

eryone because it denotes high levels of fine particle pollution, or PM2.5 particles.

In early June, U.S. President Joe Biden said in a statement that hundreds of American firefighters and support personnel have been in Canada since May, and called attention to the fires as a reminder of the impacts of climate change.

The warming planet will produce hotter and longer heat waves, making for bigger, smokier fires, according to Joel Thornton, professor and chair of the department of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington. □



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Judge, rejecting Trump arguments, signals he'll let case stay New York

By JENNIFER PELTZ and LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge in New York City signaled Tuesday that the state criminal hush money prosecution of former President Donald Trump will soon be returned to state court because Trump cannot prove that he was acting in his capacity as president when he made payments to his private attorney.

Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein said he saw "no relationship to any official act of the president" in the actions cited in a prosecution that led Trump to plead not guilty in state court in April to 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to hide 2016 hush money payouts to bury allegations of extramarital sexual encounters.

He said he'll officially rule within two weeks on Trump's effort to move the prosecution to federal court from state court.



Former President Donald Trump sits at the defense table with his legal team in a Manhattan court, April 4, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

The judge said there was "no reason to believe that an equal measure of justice could not be rendered by the state court."

Trump was indicted on charges that he falsified records at his company to

cover up payments made in 2017 to his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, to compensate him for orchestrating payouts to porn star Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal. Trump has denied hav-

ing had affairs with either woman.

Trump's lawyers have said those payments to Cohen were legitimate legal expenses and not part of any cover-up.

Before he made final re-

marks after a hearing lasting over three hours, Hellerstein made several comments indicating that to move the case, Trump needs definitive proof that he was acting in his capacity as president rather than tending to private affairs in his dealings with Cohen.

The judge said the argument by Trump's attorneys that the private act of hiring Cohen and paying him out of his pocket was related to his official duties as president "sounds a little far fetched, but that's the argument."

Later, the judge noted that there was not much evidence of exactly what role Cohen served and what duties he performed to help determine whether what he did could be considered to be within Trump's presidential duties.

"We have the invoices," the judge said, referencing a year's worth of monthly \$35,000 payments to Cohen. "But no proof of what he did." □

U.S. arrests 4 Mexican nationals in 2022 deaths of 53 migrants

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — U.S. authorities on Tuesday announced the arrests of four more people in last year's smuggling deaths of 53 migrants, including eight children, who were left in a tractor trailer in the scorching Texas summer.

Authorities said on the anniversary of the June 27, 2022, tragedy that the four Mexican nationals were aware that the trailer's air-conditioning unit was malfunctioning and would not blow cool air to the migrants trapped inside during the nearly three-hour ride. When the trailer was opened in San Antonio, 48 migrants were already dead. Another 16 were taken to hospitals, where five more died.

It was the deadliest tragedy to claim the lives of migrants smuggled across the border from Mexico. The dead included 27 from Mexico, 14 from Honduras, seven from Guatemala and two from El Salvador,

The driver and another man were arrested shortly after the migrants were found. They were charged with smuggling resulting in death and conspiracy.

The four new arrests were made Monday in Houston, San Antonio and Marshall, Texas. Authorities said the smuggling operation transported migrants from Guatemala, Honduras and

Mexico by sharing routes, guides, stash houses, trucks and trailers, some of which were stored at a private parking lot in San Antonio. The new defendants are Riley Covarrubias-Ponce, 30; Felipe Orduna-Torres, 28; Luis Alberto Rivera-Leal, 37; and Armando Gonzales-Ortega, 53. All are charged with conspiracy to transport immigrants resulting in

death, serious bodily injury and placing lives in jeopardy. Each man faces a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted.

A federal grand jury indictment alleges that the four men exchanged the names of migrants who would be smuggled in a truck. Orduna-Torres provided the address in the Texas border city of Laredo where they would be picked up, and Gonzalez-Ortega met them there. The four then coordinated the trip, exchanged messages about the truck's progress on the drive to San Antonio.

The truck was found on a remote San Antonio road, and arriving police officers detained driver Homero Zamorano Jr. after spotting him hiding in some nearby brush.

Surveillance video captured footage of the 18-wheeler passing through a Border Patrol checkpoint. One survivor, a 20-year-old

from Guatemala, told The Associated Press that the smugglers had covered the trailer's floor with what she believes was powdered chicken bouillon, apparently to throw off any dogs at the checkpoint.

Another survivor, Adan Lara Vega, said the truck was already hot when it left Laredo and that the trapped migrants soon started crying, and pleading for water. Some took turns breathing through a single hole in the wall, while others pounded on the walls and yelled to get the driver's attention.

"Human smugglers prey on migrants' hope for a better life but their only priority is profit," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.

"Tragically, 53 people who had been loaded into a tractor-trailer in Texas and endured hours of unimaginable cruelty lost their lives because of this heartless scheme." □



Roberto Marquez, of Dallas, adds a flower a makeshift memorial at the site where officials found dozens of people dead in an abandoned semitrailer containing suspected migrants, June 29, 2022, in San Antonio, Texas.

Associated Press

Honduras adopts El Salvador-style tactics in anti-gang crackdown

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras

(AP) — Authorities in Honduras forced inmates to sit half-naked in tight rows while they searched for contraband in a sweep of prisons Monday, similar to the harsh tactics of neighboring El Salvador. They also arrested a suspect in a weekend pool hall shooting that killed 11 people. The prison sweep demonstrated the Honduran government's resolve to crack down on gangs following last week's gang-related massacre of 46 female inmates in the worst atrocity at a women's prison in recent memory. Police said they were considering the possibility that the pool hall shooting on Saturday was related to the prison violence.

On Monday, the military police who have taken charge of the nation's prisons fanned out across several prisons, emptying cell blocks and forcing inmates to sit in rows, spread-legged and nestled against one another. Some were forced to keep their heads bowed and their hands on the back of their necks. Such tactics with inmates clad only in shorts, their



Military police guard the entrance to the National Penitentiary Center in Tamara, on the outskirts of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Tuesday, June 26, 2023.

heads bowed onto the backs of the men in front of them were made famous last year by Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele during his crackdown on gangs. Bukele's harsh tactics have led to allegations of human rights abuses but also proved popular with residents in the Central American country where communities are emerging from the oppression of

gang extortion and violence. As in El Salvador, police distributed videos of the prison raids, accompanied by music. Even women inmates were forced to sit in prison yards with their hands on their necks, but female military police officers allowed them to keep their shirts on. One search took place at a men's penitentiary in

Tamara, the same town where the women's prison massacre occurred Tuesday. The massacre at the women's prison in Tamara, northeast of Honduras' capital, outraged the country and sparked raids, curfews and a crackdown. In that massacre, female inmates belonging to the Barrio 18 street gang smuggled in guns, machetes and a

flammable liquid. They subdued guards and burst into cellblocks housing members of a rival gang. They sprayed the victims with gunfire, hacked to death others and then locked their cells and set the victims on fire.

While Saturday's killings at a pool hall in the city of Choloma, in Cortes province, happened far to the north of Tamara, the two events could be related, according to the police. National Police Commissioner Miguel Pérez Suazo said authorities have detained one suspect in the pool hall killings and were looking for others.

"We do not rule out these crimes could be some sort of revenge for what happened in the women's prison," Pérez Suazo said. Choloma is reputed to be the turf of the Barrio 18 gang, which would make it a logical place to target their members. But police said the suspect detained Monday also allegedly belonged to Barrio 18. And Pérez Suazo said "we also do not rule out that it could have been some type of revenge by criminals against civilians." □

Associated Press

U.N. report finds Russia tortured, executed civilians in Ukraine

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Russian forces carried out widespread and systematic torture of civilians who were detained in connection with its at-

tack on Ukraine, summarily executing dozens of them, the United Nations human rights office said Tuesday. The global body interviewed hundreds of victims and witnesses for a report

detailing more than 900 cases of civilians, including children and elderly people, being arbitrarily detained in the conflict, most of them by Russia.

The vast majority of those interviewed said they were tortured and in some cases subjected to sexual violence during detention by Russian forces, the head of the U.N. human rights office in Ukraine said.

"Torture was used to force victims to confess to helping Ukrainian armed forces, compel them to cooperate with the occupying authorities or intimidate those with pro-Ukrainian views," said Matilda Bogner.

The report, which covers a 15-month period from the start of the Russian invasion to May 2023, also docu-

mented 75 cases of arbitrary detention by Ukrainian security forces, saying a significant proportion of these also amounted to enforced disappearances.

More than half of those detained by Ukrainian forces also reported being tortured or mistreated, usually while they were being interrogated or immediately after arrest, said Bogner.

Ukraine gave U.N. investigators "unimpeded confidential access" to detainees at official detention centers, with the exception of a group of 87 Russian sailors, she said.

"The Russian Federation did not grant us such access, despite our requests," Bogner said.

The U.N. rights office has previously documented

the detention and summary execution of Ukrainian prisoners of war by Russia. The latest report found that Russian forces also carried out at least 77 summary executions of civilians.

Those detained included local officials, humanitarian volunteers, priests and teachers, many of whom were held incommunicado in "deplorable conditions," the report found.

U.N. experts found no evidence that Russian authorities have investigated allegations of abuse by their own forces and the report expressed concern over a bill that would exempt perpetrators from criminal liability for crimes committed in occupied parts of Ukraine under some circumstances. □



Tanya Nedashkivs'ka, 57, mourns the death of her husband who was killed in Bucha, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, April 4, 2022.

Associated Press

Sudan violence likely to push over 1 million refugees out of the African country by October, UN says

By JACK JEFFERY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The United Nations said Tuesday the surging violence in Sudan is likely to drive more than 1 million refugees out of the African country by October, as the 10-week conflict shows few signs of easing. Sudan descended into chaos after fighting erupted in mid-April between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo. Since then, over 3,000 people have been killed, the country's Health Ministry said, while about 2.5 million people have been displaced, according to the U.N.

The violence has been most acute in the capital, Khartoum, but also in the western Darfur region, where RSF and Arab militias are reportedly targeting non-Arab tribes, local rights groups and the U.N. said. Most of those who have escaped have fled east to Chad.



Smoke rises over Khartoum, Sudan, Friday, June 23, 2023.

"We were talking about 100,000 people in six months (fleeing to) Chad. And now the colleagues in Chad have revised their figures to 245,000," said Raouf Mazou, assistant secretary-general at United Nations High Commission for Refugees, at a news conference in the Swiss city of

Geneva.

The province of West Darfur has seen some of the worst violence. In a report last week issued by the Dar Masalit sultanate, the leader of the African Masalit ethnic community accused the RSF and Arab militias of "committing genocide against African civilians."

He estimated that more than 5,000 people were killed in the province's capital, Genena, over the past two months.

So far over 560,000 Sudanese have escaped to neighboring countries, with Egypt being the primary destination. "We expect, unfortunately, looking at

the trends, that the conflict will continue and that many in Sudan will opt to (go to) Egypt," Mazou said. Peace negotiations mediated by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia in the Saudi coastal town of Jeddah have all but broken down. The talks, which led to at last nine cease-fires, were formally adjourned last week with both mediators publicly criticizing the RSF and the army for continually violating agreed truces.

Throughout the conflict, residential areas and hospitals in Khartoum have been pounded by army airstrikes, while RSF troops who have the upper hand on the city's streets have commandeered civilian homes across the capital and turned them into bases.

Sexual violence, including the rape of women and girls, has been reported in Khartoum and Darfur. Almost all reported cases of sexual attacks were blamed on the RSF, which hasn't responded to repeated requests for comment. □

Associated Press

ICC authorizes reopening probe into Venezuela security forces

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — International prosecutors should resume investigating alleged crimes against humanity in Venezuela by security forces under President Nicolás Madu-

uro because the country's own probe has fallen short, the International Criminal Court ruled Tuesday. The court had suspended an investigation into alleged wrongdoing including use of excessive force and torture its first in Latin

America after Venezuela asked to take over the case in April last year.

Seven months later, Prosecutor Karim Khan sought to reopen his investigation, saying that Venezuelan efforts toward delivering justice "remain either insufficient in scope or have not yet had any concrete impact on potentially relevant proceedings."

Judges agreed, and the court said in a statement Tuesday that Venezuela's actions do "not sufficiently mirror the scope" of the intended investigation, including by failing to focus on more than just low-level perpetrators.

Human Rights Watch welcomed the ruling.

"With today's decision, ICC judges have greenlighted the only credible pathway to justice for the victims of abuses by Nicolás Madu-

ro's government," Juanita Goebertus, the group's Americas Director, said. "The decision confirms that Venezuela is not acting to bring justice for the crimes likely to be within the ICC's investigation.

Impunity remains the norm."

The decision comes less than three weeks after Khan visited Venezuela and signed a memorandum of understanding with Maduro to establish an office for ICC prosecutors in the country.

The case was brought to the court in 2018 by member states Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay and Peru, who sought an investigation into alleged crimes in Venezuela since early 2014, the year after Maduro took office.

Khan's predecessor, Fatou Bensouda, conducted a

preliminary probe and in 2020 said she found a reasonable basis to conclude that crimes against humanity had been committed in Venezuela, since at least April 2017. Bensouda's probe focused mainly on allegations of excessive force, arbitrary detention and torture by security forces during a crackdown on anti-government protests in 2017.

The ICC is a court of last resort that investigates alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity and other grave offenses when nations are unable, or unwilling, to do so.

Judges said that Venezuelan investigations appeared to be focused on low-level perpetrators. The ICC seeks to prosecute senior commanders deemed responsible for crimes. □



Public Prosecutor Karim Khan prepares for the trial of Mahamat Said Abdel Kani at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.

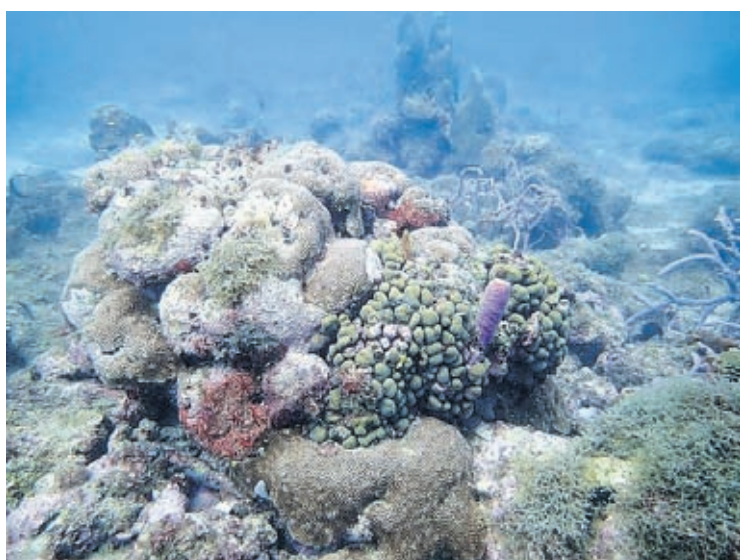
Associated Press

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research

faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather,



like hurricanes and tsunamis. Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly

put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen!

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

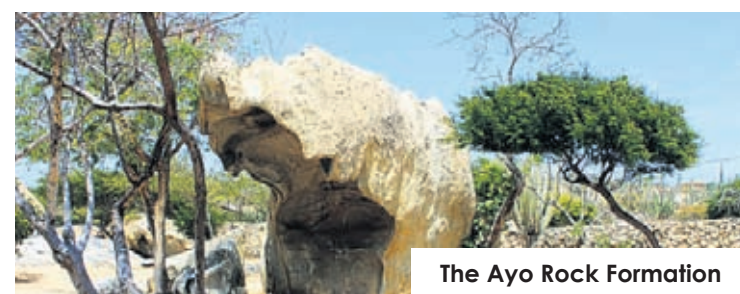
The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant

boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of

comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the



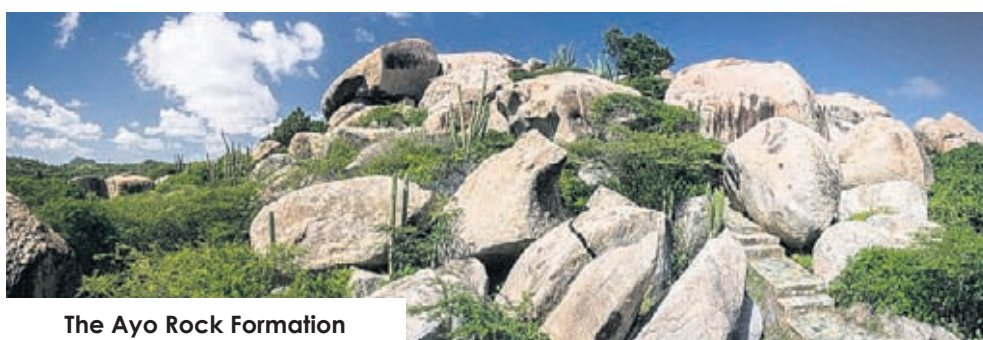
The Ayo Rock Formation

south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are

no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □



The Ayo Rock Formation



The Casibari Rock Formation

Today Is Going To Be A Good Day



Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots.

The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome

to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facil-

ities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company

and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook. □



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Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm. For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown

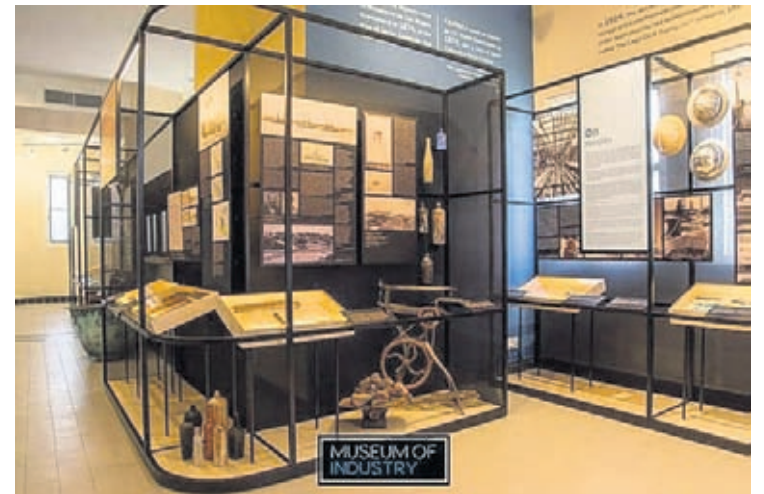
Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive



public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

ly from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

The museum is open dai-



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Building Aruban Education

Episode CCXII - 212

Etnia Nativa writes Island-Insight, focusing on various aspects of native knowledge, transcendental wisdom, and the importance of upholding cultural identity. This column aims to educate its readers and encourage them to embrace a genuine island state of mind. In this episode, Etnia Nativa shares the beginnings of education in Aruba.

The first inhabitants of Aruba were animists and practiced various forms of worship and belief systems. When the Spanish conquerors arrived, the native inhabitants were subjected to colonization and efforts to Christianize them. The exact timeline of the conversion process is not well documented, but historical evidence suggests that Juan Manuel Martinez de Manzanillo, bishop of Caracas, Curacao, Bonaire, and Aruba, visited our island around 1593 to perform the Sacrament of Confirmation. This indicates that the conversion had already started before this period.

However, there was no permanent church building in Aruba until the arrival of the Dutch in 1636. The Dutch occupation complicated matters further, as they forbade visits from priests from the continent, and in 1639, the Dutch West Indian Company formally instituted a prohibition on the Roman Catholic religion. Overall, a combination of Spanish and Dutch influence marked the history of religious conversion in Aruba, alongside the persistence of Catholic priests who maintained contact with the local population despite official prohibitions.

During 1700s, the descendants of Spaniards and indigenous people formed a settlement in an area that is now known as Alto Vista. They conducted their religious services in different houses until a chapel, was constructed in 1750.

Since there were no permanent priests available, fiscals (lay officials) were appointed to oversee the religious affairs of the community. The first known fiscal was Domingo Antonio Silvestre, followed by Miguel Enrique Alvarez. The mention of their ability to read and write is significant because it indicates the beginning of education during that time. They had the responsibility to teach others. This suggests that education has started to emerge in the community.

Under the leadership of the fiscal, the church at Alto



Vista was eventually abandoned, and a new church was constructed in North (Noord), which later became known as St. Anna. It is worth noting that around 1780, a shipwreck caused an epidemic known as the black fever or death, resulting in the loss of a significant part of the settlement's population. Both the Church and the Government believed that the people should relocate to a healthier area.

The present Alto Vista chapel was built close to the same site where the first church stood. The chapel houses an authentic and original cross that was saved from the first church. A descendant of a former church member donated the cross. Additionally, there are a couple of graves in the chapel yard, where the first fiscals were buried shortly after the opening of the first church in North.

By 1825, there were two schools on the island. The public school offered Protestant teaching in Dutch, while the Roman Catholic school provided education in Spanish. In the late 1800s, nuns arrived and took on teaching duties until 1909.

By 1875, there were schools in Oranjestad, North, and Santa Cruz. Interestingly, only Dutch was taught in Oranjestad, both in the public and Roman Catholic schools. In North and Santa Cruz, Papiamentu, the local language, replaced Spanish. By the turn of the century, a school in Sabaneta taught in Papiamentu. In 1899, a small Protestant school in Piedra Plat had already been established, although it did not expand significantly. In the 20th century, education began to firmly establish itself, and parish schools received adequate subsidies and legal recognition.

By 1916, there were schools in North, Santa Cruz, Sabaneta, and Oranjes-

tad. These included one government/public school, one for girls, and one for boys, providing education up to the 6th grade. After 1916, two more grades were added (U.L.O.), and in 1938, MULO (a 10-grade program) became the standard for Oranjestad schools.

In 1924, the oil industry arrived, with companies like Eagle and Lago Petroleum Corporation. Lago started an apprentice program in 1935 to teach young men English and trade skills in preparation for work within the refinery. Aruba's first trade school was established in 1952.

Prior to the arrival of the oil industry, Aruba was predominantly Catholic, with a presence of Dutch Reformed Protestants and Jews who did not have an official place of worship. However, with the establishment of refineries immigrants from approximately 40 different nationalities settled on the island. Churches of various denominations were established, particularly in and around San Nicolas. However, these denominations did not introduce their own schools or schooling systems. Lago, on the other hand, constructed a school following American standards for the children of its employees.

We highly recommend visiting Etnia Nativa on site if you have a keen interest in experiencing Aruban native culture. The owner's first-hand knowledge and explanations add authenticity to the experience, immersing you in Aruba's rich history and cultural heritage. The place is an incredible "cabinet of curiosities."

To arrange a visit, contact etniana-tiva03@gmail.com or WhatsApp (messages only) at +297 592 2702. Appointments are necessary to ensure a personalized and immersive experience. □



A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curaçao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all

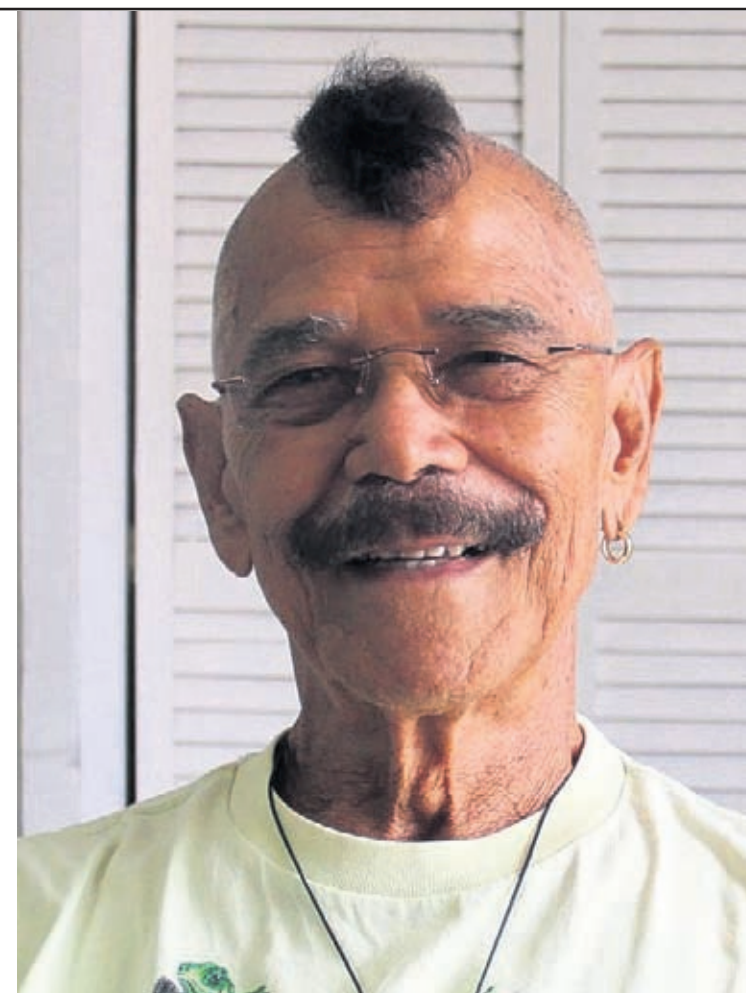
these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the light-

house was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curaçao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curaçao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging



weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite di-

rection. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

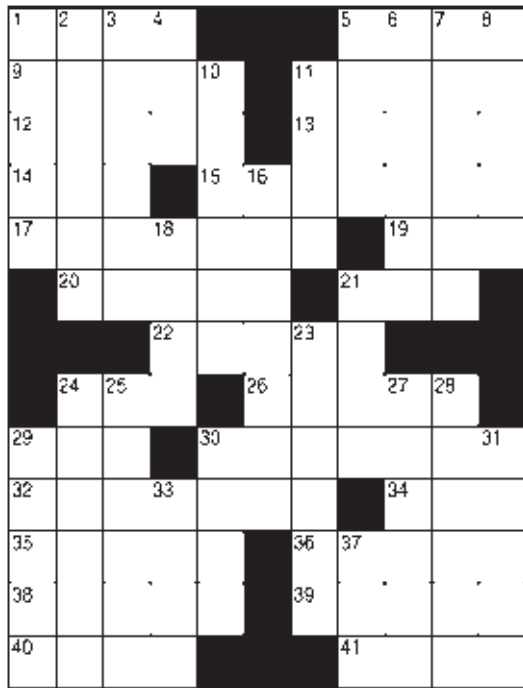
- 1 Bar mixer
5 Used the pool
9 Sports spot
11 Biscotti flavor
12 Deadly
13 Blog entries
14 Greek vowel
15 National League team
17 National League team
19 Gift from Santa
20 Cologne's river
21 — Alamos
22 Nick of "Affliction"
24 Chips buy
26 Sub sounder
29 "Roses — red"
30 National League team
32 National League team
34 Casual top
35 Wall climbers
36 Martini garnish

DOWN

- 38 Davis of "Thelma & Louise"
39 Witch trial town
40 Helper: Abbr.
41 Go by
1 Less dangerous
2 Stump figure
3 Tear off
4 "Knives Out" star
5 Winter weather
6 Aware of
7 American League team
8 Unkempt
10 White rat, e.g.
11 Some primates
16 Catches
18 Throne occupant
21 Singer
23 Trunks
24 National League team
25 Eagles' homes
27 Hun leader
28 Keanu of "John Wick"
29 Friendly señorita
30 Tower town
31 Appears
33 Spring period
37 Track trip

PISCES PEEP
ORIENT OGRE
PARADE FLOAT
SEPAL
DEED CUSS
BEND TEXTER
APT BAT RAM
NORTON VATS
TYRO GAPS
ATHOS
KITCHENSINK
EDIT AZALEA
GOES DOLLEY

Yesterday's answer



6-28

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-28

CRYPTOQUOTE

CG. NX. YHMLSHX ECPIU QHFHX

UHBOQH YGRS'L MHOQD LROU

MHSYHHQ ZCPX GHRXS RQU

NOQH. RIOLCQ JXRPLL

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SEIZE THE MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS, LOVE AND BE LOVED! THAT IS THE ONLY REALITY IN THE WORLD. ALL ELSE IS FOLLY. — LEO TOLSTOY



A sheet of uncut \$100 bills is inspected during the printing process at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Western Currency Facility in Fort Worth, Texas, on Sept. 24, 2013.

Associated Press

The Great Grift: More than \$200 billion in COVID-19 aid may have been stolen, federal watchdog says

By RICHARD LARDNER and JENNIFER McDERMOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than \$200 billion may have been stolen from two large COVID-19 relief initiatives, according to new estimates from a federal watchdog investigating federally funded programs that helped small businesses survive the worst public health crisis in more than a hundred years.

The numbers issued Tuesday by the U.S. Small Business Administration inspector general are much greater than the office's previous projections and underscore how vulnerable the Paycheck Protection and COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan programs were to fraudsters, particularly during the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic. The inspector general's report said "at least 17 percent of all COVID-EIDL and PPP funds were disbursed to potentially fraudulent actors." The fraud estimate for the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is more than \$136 billion, which represents 33 percent of the total money spent on that program, according to the report. The Paycheck Protection fraud estimate is \$64 billion, the inspector general said.

In comments attached to the report, a senior SBA official disputed the new numbers. Bailey DeVries, SBA's acting associate administrator for capital access, said the inspector general's "approach contains serious flaws that significantly overestimate fraud and unintentionally mislead the public to believe that the work we did together had no significant impact in protecting against fraud." The SBA inspector general had previously estimated fraud in the COVID-19 disaster loan program at \$86 billion and the Paycheck Protection program at \$20 billion. □

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Paul McCartney's rediscovered photos show Beatlemania from the inside

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Is there really a new way to look at The Beatles, one of the most filmed and photographed bands in history? Yes, says Britain's National Portrait Gallery, which is providing a fresh perspective with an exhibition of band's-eye-view images that Paul McCartney captured as the group shot to global fame.

Gallery director Nicholas Cullinan said the exhibit, subtitled "Eyes of the Storm," is a chance "to see, for the very first time, Beatlemania from the inside out." The seed for the exhibit was sown in 2020, that year of lockdown projects, when McCartney dug out 1,000 forgotten photos he'd taken in 1963 and 1964, as the Fab Four went from emerging British celebrities to world megastars. He and his team asked if the National Portrait Gallery was interested in displaying them.

"I think you can probably guess our response," Cullinan said as he introduced the exhibition to journalists in London on Tuesday.

The show includes 250 photos taken in England, France and the United States that illustrate The Beatles' journey from cramped dressing



Visitors look at pictures during a preview of Paul McCartney Photographs 1963-64: Eyes of the Storm exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in London, Britain, Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

Associated Press

rooms in provincial British theaters to stadium shows and luxury hotels.

"It was a crazy whirlwind that we were living through," McCartney writes in a note present at the start of the exhibit. "We were just wondering at the world, excited about all these little things that were making up our lives."

Rosie Broadley, who curated the show, said the gallery soon realized the trove "wasn't just interesting pictures by a famous person." "It's actually telling an im-

portant story about cultural history British cultural history and international cultural history," she said. "This is a moment when British culture took over the world for a while."

The display begins in late 1963, shortly after McCartney acquired a Pentax 35mm camera. The early black-and-white images include portraits of The Beatles, their parents, girlfriends, crew and colleagues, including manager Brian Epstein.

Broadley said these images

depict "a parochial post-war British celebrity" — concerts in provincial cinemas alongside now-obscure bands like Peter Jay and the Jaywalkers, 16-night variety-style Christmas shows at London's Finsbury Park Astoria.

Cullinan said the photos convey a "sense of intimacy" missing from professional photos of the band.

"This wasn't The Beatles being photographed by press photographers of paparazzi but peer-to-peer," he said. "So there's a real ten-

derness and vulnerability to these images."

In January 1964, McCartney took his camera with the band to Paris, capturing the city at the height of its French New Wave cool. While there, The Beatles learned that "I Want to Hold Your Hand" was a No. 1 hit in the United States.

Within days, they were on a plane to New York, where their Feb. 9 performance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" was watched by 73 million people, and nothing was ever the same again.

The U.S. section of the exhibit shows the band's increasingly frenetic life. Many of the shots were taken from planes, trains and chauffeur-driven automobiles and show crowds of screaming fans and rows of police. Sometimes, McCartney turned his lens back on the newspaper and magazine photographers looking at him.

One striking shot was taken through the back window of a car as a crowd chased the band down a Manhattan street, a scene echoed in the band's first feature film, "A Hard Day's Night," made later that year.

McCartney also took pictures of strangers a girl seen through a train window, ground crew at Miami airport goofing around. □

Ryan Seacrest will host 'Wheel of Fortune' after Pat Sajak retires next year

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The category? "Proper Name." The answer? Ryan Seacrest, who will become the new "Wheel of Fortune" host after Pat Sajak's retirement next year.

Seacrest and Sony Pictures Television announced Tuesday that Seacrest has signed a multiyear deal to host the long-running game show starting with Season 42. Sajak recently announced the upcoming 41st season would be his last on the show.

It's the latest hosting gig for Seacrest, the popular "American Idol" host who also now rings in the new year for many on "Dick

Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve."

"I'm truly humbled to be stepping into the footsteps of the legendary Pat Sajak," Seacrest said in a statement. "I can say, along with the rest of America, that it's been a privilege and pure joy to watch Pat and Vanna on our television screens for an unprecedented 40 years, making us smile every night and feel right at home with them." Seacrest in his statement also praised Vanna White, another mainstay of "Wheel of Fortune," and signaled she would remain on the show after Sajak's retirement. Both White and

Sajak have been on the show since the early 1980s.

"I can't wait to continue the tradition of spinning the wheel and working alongside the great Vanna White," Seacrest's statement said. He also said he was looking to learn as much as possible from Sajak during the transition period. The show tapes in Southern California, where Seacrest also hosts a popular nationally syndicated morning drivetime radio show. In February, Seacrest announced he would leave the New York-based televised morning show "Live with Kelly and Ryan" after six years. □



Pat Sajak attends a ceremony honoring Harry Friedman with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles on Nov. 1, 2019, left, and Ryan Seacrest attends the Walt Disney Television 2019 upfront in New York on May 14, 2019.

Associated Press

History says highly touted rookie tight ends don't always make a major impact right away

By STEVE MEGARGEE

AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — This rookie class of tight ends already made quite an impact on the draft.

They'll have to buck history if they're going to leave the same type of impression on the field this year. Tight end arguably is the toughest position for rookies to make huge contributions.

Detroit Lions coach Matt Campbell, who played tight end in the NFL from 1999-2008, understands why.

"I always make this argument: Besides the quarterback, the tight ends have to know more than anybody else offensively," said Campbell, who played for the New York Giants, Dallas Cowboys and Lions. "You've got to know it all." Campbell has high hopes for Sam LaPorta, the tight end Detroit drafted out of Iowa in the second round. LaPorta was one of nine tight ends selected in the first three rounds of the recent draft, the highest total since the common draft era began in 1967.

The others are Buffalo's Dalton Kincaid (formerly at Utah), Las Vegas' Michael Mayer (Notre Dame), Green Bay's Luke Musgrave (Oregon State) and Tucker Kraft (South Dakota State),



Buffalo Bills tight end Dalton Kincaid (86) makes a catch during the NFL football team's rookie minicamp in Orchard Park, N.Y., May 12, 2023.

Dallas' Luke Schoonmaker (Michigan), Jacksonville's Brenton Strange (Penn State), Pittsburgh's Darnell Washington (Georgia) and San Francisco's Cameron Latu (Alabama).

Kincaid, the 25th overall pick, was the lone first-round selection. Mayer, Musgrave, Schoonmaker and Strange joined LaPorta as second-round picks. Kraft, Washington and Latu went in the third round.

The question is whether there's anyone who could approach the rookie pro-

duction Atlanta's Kyle Pitts had a couple of years ago. Pitts caught 68 passes for 1,026 yards in 2021 after the former Florida star was selected fourth overall, the earliest a tight end had ever been drafted. But he's an exception.

Only five rookie tight ends in NFL history have caught as many as 60 passes. Four have caught more than seven touchdown passes in their debut seasons. Pitts had one. Just two accumulated 1,000 yards receiving. Pitts was the first rookie

tight end to reach the 1,000-yard mark since Chicago's Mike Ditka had 12 touchdown catches and 1,076 yards receiving both rookie records in 1961. The record for catches by a rookie tight end is owned by Keith Jackson, who had 81 receptions for the Philadelphia Eagles in 1988. Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur agrees tight ends face a bigger learning curve than most because of all that's expected of them. Some tight ends who might have put up big re-

ceiving numbers in college discover pass-catching skills aren't enough to succeed in the NFL. "There's just so much that you have to, so much knowledge that you have to acquire in terms of you're responsible in the running game and the passing game and you might have some protection responsibility," LaFleur said. LaFleur's rookie tight ends already have discovered that. "I think in college as tight ends you're really not asked to do the extent that you are in the pros," Kraft said.

Buffalo's Dawson Knox puts it in more descriptive terms. A 2019 third-round pick from Mississippi, Knox has caught 15 touchdown passes over the last two seasons. As he helps Kincaid adapt to the NFL, Knox remembers his own challenges as a rookie.

"It's like trying to drink from a firehose," he said. Knox said the biggest adjustment is learning the playbook.

"It's almost like a foreign language sometimes because it could be a 15-word play call and you're trying to figure out which words are talking to you, what words mean something to the other guys and then all these different alerts and stuff," he said. □

Associated Press

Athletes who sign NLI won't face penalty if they renege

By The Associated Press

The governing body for the National Letter of Intent Program on Tuesday announced new policies allowing athletes to back out of NLI agreements without penalty under certain circumstances.

The signing of letters of intent has been part of the recruiting process in NCAA divisions I and II since 1964. It is intended to be a binding agreement between an athlete and school. The athlete promises to attend the school for one academic year in exchange for a full or partial athletic

scholarship for one academic year.

An athlete who does not fulfill his or her NLI agreement traditionally must sit out one season of competition at the next school they attend.

Following a committee review of NLI policy, the Collegiate Commissioners Association will not penalize an athlete who requests a release due to a head coaching change. Neither will an athlete be penalized for leaving their original school after one quarter or one semester as long as a release is requested. The

policy change takes effect with the 2023-24 signing periods for 2024-25 enrollees.

The CCA also will expand the program to provide an athlete transferring from one four-year school to another an opportunity to sign an NLI as long as he or she has entered the NCAA transfer portal.

Big Sky Conference Commissioner Tom Wistrill, chair of the NLI Policy and Review Committee, said the changes are meant to modernize the NLI program so it more accurately reflects the recruiting landscape. □



Former Oklahoma quarterback Charles Thompson, left, looks on as his son, Newcastle quarterback Casey Thompson, prepares to sign a letter of intent to play football for the University of Texas in Newcastle, Okla., Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017.

Associated Press

U.S. team for golf's Ryder Cup could be loaded, and some stars could be left out

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Ryder Cup captain Zach Johnson still has time on his side, just not as much. He also keeps getting more candidates for his U.S. team, which isn't making the job any easier.

And it's no longer about Brooks Koepka or anyone else from LIV Golf.

"There's still a lot of golf between now and then," Johnson said that Sunday morning in May at the PGA Championship, a few hours before Brooks Koepka showed off his major swagger at Oak Hill with a victory that did more than restore his reputation as Big Game Brooks.

It moved him to No. 2 in the Ryder Cup standings. Given that Koepka appears to be back at full strength, that's not such a bad thing. Now consider the last two weeks.

Wyndham Clark showed plenty of moxie when he outplayed Rory McIlroy on the back nine of Los Angeles Country Club and won



Max Homa, left, fist-bumps Wyndham Clark, right, after their putts on the 10th hole during the second round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament at TPC River Highlands, Friday, June 23, 2023, in Cromwell, Conn.

the U.S. Open. Coupled with his victory in an elevated event at the Wells Fargo Championship, Clark moved past Koepka to No. 2 and is all but assured of his Ryder Cup debut in Rome. And then Keegan Bradley

battled the internal pressure of playing before a home crowd in New England and won the Travelers Championship for his second victory of the year. That big yell he let loose on the 18th green brought

back images of his Ryder Cup debut in 2012.

He moved to No. 7 in the standings.

Bradley hasn't played in a Ryder Cup since 2014, an unhappy memory in Scotland from Captain Tom Watson benching him in three of the five sessions and Europe celebrating on home soil.

The thought of playing in another Ryder Cup meant every bit as much as the \$3.6 million he won.

"It is the first thing I said to my wife walking up to sign my card," Bradley said Sunday. "This is a pretty big step towards doing that. I'm 37 years old. I hope to play in multiple more. I don't know how many more with everybody so good and the young kids, just the team is incredible."

"I would love to go to Rome and be a part of that team." Right when it looks as though the American team has a core of Ryder Cup stars who finally can swing the pendulum in its favor, someone new or something new comes along.

From that '21 team that gave Europe its worst loss ever in the Ryder Cup, three players defected to something new (LIV Golf). Among the potential new-

comers to the big stage are Max Homa and Cameron Young, Clark and Sam Burns, the latter narrowly left off the last Ryder Cup team.

The core from Whistling Straits included Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth and Collin Morikawa, all of them multiple major champions, none with a victory over the last 12 months.

The matches start Sept. 29 in Rome. The leading six players through the BMW Championship automatically qualify, and then Johnson says he will lean on those six players and his assistant captains to determine the six wild-card picks to give the team a sense of ownership. Time on his side? Eight weeks remain before qualifying ends. That includes a major (British Open) and a pair of \$20 million events from the FedEx Cup playoffs. Most of the top players won't be playing more than four of those eight weeks.

The leading six in the Ryder Cup standings going into the Rocket Mortgage Classic are Scottie Scheffler, Clark, Koepka, Xander Schauffele, Patrick Cantlay and Homa.

Next in line are Bradley, Spieth, Young, Burns, Thomas and Morikawa.

Still to be determined? Plenty. The resurgent Rickie Fowler and Tony Finau, who has played on the last four U.S. teams and has two wins this season, are part of the conversation.

Dustin Johnson is probably too far back that even a claret jug won't allow him to qualify, but he will be hard to ignore if he were to win the final major of the year. The last (healthy) American to win a major and get left off the Ryder Cup team was Todd Hamilton in 2004. Turnover is nothing new for the Americans.

When they manhandled Europe at Hazeltine in 2016 to end a three-match losing streak, only six of them were on the charter flight to France two years later (another loss). □

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